

REMARKS**Summary of the Final Office Action**

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over what the Examiner refers to as “Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art” (hereinafter “AAPA”) and further in view of Dapkus (U.S. Patent No. 6,621,842) (hereinafter “Dapkus”).

Claim 10, while objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to include the features of dependent claim 10 in light of the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter in claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Previously withdrawn claims 1-6 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to their possible presentation in a divisional application to be filed shortly based on this application. Previous withdrawn dependent claim 9 is requested to be rejoined into this application in light of its dependence on amended claim 7 which is now in prima-facie condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 7-9 are currently pending with claims 7-9 currently under consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA and further in view of Dapkus. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to include the features of dependent claim 10 in light of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Newly-amended independent claim 7 is thus now in prima-facie condition for allowance. Previous withdrawn dependent claim 9 is requested to be rejoined into this application in light of its dependence on amended claim 7. Claim 9 has also been amended to render its features consistent with the newly-amended independent claim 7. Also, claim 8 is in condition for allowance at least because of their dependence from newly-amended independent claim 7, and the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

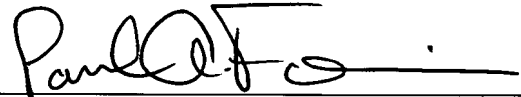
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

Dated: October 23, 2007

By:



Paul A. Fournier
Reg. No. 41,023

Customer No. 055694

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20005-1209

Tel.: (202) 842-8800

Fax: (202) 842-8465